



As a part of its Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018,¹ Congress appropriated additional funds to states to be used to “improve the administration of federal elections for federal office, including enhancing election technology and making election security improvements.” Ohio’s share of the appropriated funds is **\$12,186,021**. As a part of the statutory scheme, the state must provide a **\$609,301** match by March 23, 2020.

In order to draw down its allocation of federal funding, Ohio must submit a plan for how it intends to expend these newly appropriated resources to improve the administration of federal elections in this state. The expected timeline for completion of these priorities is December 31, 2020. With the understanding that the next Secretary of State may have additional priorities and may amend Ohio’s plan upon taking office in January 2019, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted submits the following:

Statewide Voter Registration System Database (SWVRD)

Ohio’s SWVRD is a “bottom-up” system; each county selects its own county voter registration system (CVRS) that communicates with a centralized, real-time statewide database. Several security improvements and technology enhancements are planned for the SWVRD, CVRS, communications network, and other elections-related information technology systems hosted by the Secretary of State’s Office (e.g., election night reporting systems). Anticipated enhancements include the introduction of multi-factor authentication; increased hardening of communications lines; enhanced encryption techniques; replacement of personal computing hardware and related operating systems; and long-term planning for the future security and functionality of the SWVRD. In all, service providers for the SWVRD and CVRS, hardware and software purchases, and consultants for this multi-faceted initiative are expected to cost as much as **\$3.9 million**.

Pathfinders

Secretary Husted is requiring each county board of elections to join the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC), engage U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for free resources including the phishing campaign assessment and vulnerability scanning, and use the Center for Internet Security (CIS) *Elections Infrastructure Playbook* as a guide for identifying and mitigating risks within the local elections information technology environment. As in most states, Ohio’s local elections officials have varying levels of IT

¹ 115 P.L. 141, 132 Stat. 348, 2018 Enacted H.R. 1625, 115 Enacted H.R. 1625.

training and experience and disparate access to resources. This priority reserves **\$4.9 million** in grants to Ohio's 88 county boards of elections to contract for "Pathfinder" support. Pathfinders, for purposes of this priority, will help the local election official with setting up the EI-ISAC and DHS resources and assist them in conducting the CIS assessment. The Pathfinders will also help in developing a plan for mitigating vulnerabilities identified in the assessments and may even participate in completing tasks necessary in that mitigation.

Enhanced Cybersecurity Service (ECS)

ECS utilizes classified information sourced by U.S. government intelligence organizations to detect and prevent malicious Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) and Domain Name Service (DNS) traffic. This plan sets aside **\$100,000** to provide ECS for email accounts through 2020.

Table-top Exercises (TTX) & Training

This initiative allocates **\$186,021** for the Secretary of State to host regional table-top exercises (TTX's) for local elections officials in 2018, modeled after the elections-specific TTX recently run by the Kennedy School of Government's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. Funding for this initiative will also support travel and attendance costs for cybersecurity experts to serve as speakers at the regional elections conferences within Ohio and support online and other cybersecurity courses, including phishing awareness training for state and local election officials.

IT & Email Support Pilot Project

Funding in the amount of **\$1 million** within this initiative provides the Secretary of State with the additional human and technical resources to conduct a pilot program to bring a limited number of local election office's IT and email functions inside of the Secretary of State's network and system. Under this pilot program, the board of elections would still select its CVRS system and own the CVRS-related hardware, and be responsible for all functions related to its voting system; but, the Secretary of State's office would become the local network and internet service provider, and the networked board of elections' IT functions would sit behind the Secretary of State's firewalls and other cybersecurity systems and monitors. Local workstations would be owned by the board of elections but must meet ongoing standards established by the Secretary of State's office. Additionally, a separate pilot program will enable county boards of elections to rely on the Secretary of State's IT department and its Outlook 365 enterprise agreement for its email service and support; the local election office would maintain a form of its local email domain name.

Post-Election Audits

Secretary Husted requires, by permanent directive, all county boards of elections to conduct a post-election audit following each presidential primary election and regular federal general election. Boards of elections may choose their auditing method. Both major party candidates for Secretary of State in 2018 have separately introduced legislation to place Secretary Husted's

post-election audit requirement into state law and to require boards of elections to use a risk-limiting audit methodology. This plan sets aside **\$2.1 million** to help offset costs for state and local election officials in conducting post-election audits through 2020.

Contingencies

In the event that the funding allocation for the priorities listed above is greater than the actual costs associated with achieving the intended outcome, that other funding sources are identified for a priority, or that the priority falls in relative importance, the Secretary of State's office has identified the following contingent priorities:

- *Content Management Systems & Cloud Hosting Support:* This contingent initiative would provide funding to assist counties or their managed service providers in replacing open source website content management systems (e.g., WordPress) with systems that are secured more robustly against common defacing attacks and other cyberattacks. Funding would also be available to assist counties with moving their online functions (e.g., dynamic election night reporting) to secure government clouds during high traffic time periods to mitigate risks of distributed denial of service (DDoS) and other cybersecurity threats.
- *Enhanced Cybersecurity Services for Counties:* This contingent initiative would provide funding to extend ECS to county election officials outside of the Secretary of State's email system.

2018 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT

Budget Information

CFDA # 90.404

Non-Construction Program

Name of Organization: Ohio Secretary of State

Budget Period Start: 3/23/2018

Budget Period End: 12/31/2020

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

FEDERAL & NON-FEDERAL FUNDS (Match)

(Consolidated Budget for total project term--
up to 5 years as defined by grantee)

BUDGET CATEGORIES	PROGRAM CATEGORIES							TOTALS	% Fed Total
	(a) Voting Equipment	(b) Election Auditing	(c) Voter Registration Systems	(d) Cyber Security	(e) Communications	(f) Other	(g) Other		
1. PERSONNEL (including fringe)			\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00				\$ 1,000,000.00	8%
2. EQUIPMENT			\$ 2,000,000.00					\$ 2,000,000.00	16%
3. SUBGRANTS- to local voting jurisdictions		\$ 2,100,000.00		\$ 4,900,000.00				\$ 7,000,000.00	57%
4. TRAINING				\$ 286,021.00				\$ 286,021.00	2%
5. All OTHER COSTS			\$ 1,900,000.00					\$ 1,900,000.00	16%
6. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (1-6)	\$ -	\$ 2,100,000.00	\$ 4,400,000.00	\$ 5,686,021.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,186,021.00	
7. INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)								\$ -	0%
8. Total Federal Budget	\$ -	\$ 2,100,000.00	\$ 4,400,000.00	\$ 5,686,021.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,186,021.00	
11. Non-Federal Match								\$ -	
12. Total Program Budget	\$ -	\$ 2,100,000.00	\$ 4,400,000.00	\$ 5,686,021.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,186,021.00	
13. Percentage By Category	0%	17%	36%	47%	0%	0%	0%		

Proposed State Match 0.0%

A. Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government or some other non-federal entity?

No

If yes, please provide the following information:

B. Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (mm/dd/yyyy-mm/dd/yyyy):

C. Approving Federal agency:

D. If other than Federal agency, please specify:

E. The Indirect Cost Rate is: